

### ENLISTS FOR THE RHODE ISLAND WAR.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

In a recent issue of the REVIEW Mr. A. J. Wolf of Fairhope asks for action.

Cannot we have a five year Concentration Battle, centered on Rhode Island?

Seems to me if all of us in this United States could be attracted to this one spot for attack, many would contribute freely to a specific effort of this kind.

I mean that the fight should be called off in all other places and no money or effort used except in this one place.

The object being to make one conquest where we can *demonstrate* and bring other communities into line, by the object lesson thus afforded.

My worldly possessions do not amount to \$100, but if Gov. Garvin and his fighters can focus the people on this point I am ready to pay \$10 per year for 5 years and will send the \$50 in advance.

GEO. McCRAITH.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal.

### THE MONEY QUESTION.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

Like your correspondent, Mr. Steele, I think Single Taxers ought to consider the money question—not because I regard it as a question of any very vital importance; but because so many people do regard it as vital; and Single Taxers cannot afford to ignore any question of public concern.

It was a very careful and thorough study of the money question, over thirty years ago, that led me to the reading of Adam Smith and then to Henry George. I was a George man before Progress and Poverty was published, having read George's remarkable lecture given before the students of the University of California.

With your permission I will state a few propositions that seem to me to be fundamental.

I. It is not the business of government to furnish the people with money any more than with hats or coats, food, fuel or houses.

II. It is the duty of the government to conduct the public business in the simplest and best manner possible.

III. Whether its revenues are apportioned and collected justly or unjustly, every government has a certain annual revenue, against which it can draw, to pay its bills, just as you or I can draw against our bank account.

IV. In drawing checks against its revenues, the government, unlike an individual, should have its checks printed in the most convenient form for handling, in the most convenient denominations for meeting payments, and on the cheapest and most suitable material, so stamped or engraved as to offer the least inducement to counterfeiters.

V. Government checks so printed and issued, to meet payments for services and materials furnished to the government, and receivable at the government treasury for all dues to government, would as a matter of fact, provide a currency the most simple, safe and perfect, in every way, of any currency ever devised by the mind of man.

Note—These government checks would naturally be printed on paper, for all the larger denominations; but the smaller ones might better be printed on some cheap and durable metal. Inasmuch as their value depends wholly on the fact that they are never issued in excess of the revenues to be collected, and that they are always receivable for all dues to government, it would seem to be the height of folly to print them on metal of any great value. As, for instance, the U. S. Government printing its dollar checks on pieces of silver that cost about fifty cents for each dollar check. What would we think of the wisdom of a business man who bought pieces of silver to write his bank checks on—especially if he wrote thousands of bank checks for a dollar each, on pieces of silver that cost him about fifty cents apiece? Is such a practice any wiser because done by a government, and the checks called money?

VI. There would be no need of making such government issues legal tender for private debts. Everyone would be perfectly willing to take them so long as the government never issued them in excess of its revenues, and so long as they were